

Residents' Association Chairman's Report

Planning update

PL2025/01404/PPOL. Castle Hills Solar Farm on Woodhouse Farm Land

Representatives together with a number of residents who registered their interest in joining Community Liaison Group at an open event last year were due to meet with representatives of the operator Total Energies on 23rd June to discuss the planning application and Terms of References for the group. Information about the application and the group can be found at www.castlehillssolarfarm.co.uk

Village Hall News

On Sunday 14th June a working party of volunteers gave up a few hours of their time to work on sprucing up the hall grounds.

Amongst other things just to give you a flavour, the work included;

Weeding and pruning

Hedge trimming

Bench painting

Ground clearance and sweeping

Window cleaning



The hall trustees are very grateful for all the help and the end result is amazing. The grounds are looking the best they have for quite a while. Another working party will be held at the end of the summer, so please do come along and make a valued contribution to maintaining and improving one of our best community facilities.

We have identified a schedule of necessary maintenance and improvements to the main hall and outbuildings to be carried out over the coming months. The more pressing of which is work to address issues requiring attention on the main roof. Some work on this is about to be undertaken by a local firm in the village. One of the main outbuildings also needs more remedial work as we still have an ingress of water which we thought we had resolved with the new flat roof last year. Improvements we wish to make include re-painting inside the main hall, replacing the curtain poles/mechanisms and giving the toilet area a serious upgrade/makeover. We will report on progress with all of these activities in future newsletters.

Steve Dodsworth



Airport News

A new website for the Airport's Consultative Committee (ACC) is being prepared which will explain what the ACC does and contain documents relating to its activities. At a recent meeting of the ACC, Nick Barton (CEO) commented that the Airport had an excellent year handling 13.7 million passengers and was planning to spend £71 million on improvements in the next 12 months. Bookings have slowed as a direct result of the issues in the Middle East but no airline at the time were reporting problems with fuel, having forward hedged most of their requirements. Freight business had doubled but they were not encouraging night time freight movements. Freight is designed to fill their "quiet times" during the day. Their Masterplan, detailing their future plans, is due out later this year. As a member of the ACC and the associated Noise Working Group we are working to minimise the impact, specifically, noise on our communities, resulting from the activities of the Airport.

Residents Association Barbecue

BBQ Event Village Hall Saturday 11th July starting 1:30 pm

In recent editions we advised that the Residents Association is 40 years old this year and we are holding a member's BBQ on Saturday 11th July starting at 1.30 pm. There will be a licensed bar, music, with face painting for children - and adults of course. There are still a few tickets left - come and celebrate 40 years of community effort with us.

Tickets are £10 per head and can be obtained by contacting Debbie at debbie.moseley@icloud.com

A Brief History of the Residents' Association

As you know the Residents' Association is Celebrating its 40th anniversary. The RA was officially founded in January 1986. Pete Peters, who some of you will remember, was the first chairman and remained in that role until 2001, when Dave Cuthbert took over. Lesley Cuthbert was a founder committee member and is still there today! The initial membership was recruited by a door-to-door campaign and amounted to around 400 households. The Catney News was introduced soon after.

The association ran or sponsored many social events over the years - quiz nights, beer and skittles evenings, bonfire night parties, theatre outings, bingo afternoons and Christmas parties. The fete was a major annual highlight usually followed by a barbecue. Funds raised by the Fete were often used to pay for improvements to the Hall. In December, carol singers went around the village and raised money for the Warren Pearl home, on one occasion accompanied by hand-bell ringing. More recent activities include litter picking, the Craft and Chat group and the Christmas Craft Fair.



There have been some memorable special occasion celebrations: VE Day 50th Anniversary Celebration (2005) complete with ration books, the Queen's 90th birthday (2016) and her Diamond and Platinum Jubilees, and, of course, the King's Coronation.

Many of the issues, such as speeding traffic, unwanted developments and aircraft noise are continuing concerns. The RA has been kept busy monitoring and responding to planning applications. The RA has supported some legendary campaigns such as the SOAR group, chaired by Dave Cuthbert, formed in 2002 to oppose the construction of a second runway by BIA. This group organised a march from the Village Hall into Solihull, which was accompanied by two mounted police and numbered over 1000 people by the time it reached Solihull town centre. In 2003, a petition was drawn up and 2 coach loads of Solihull residents went to Downing Street to present it to the PM.

A new MSA on the M42 was first mentioned in 1993 and in 1999 the SNAG group, chaired by Maggie Throup, was formed to oppose it. Green balloons representing the green belt were sent aloft at Walford Hall and a group (assisted by Theresa May!) displayed a huge banner on the motorway bridge on Friday Lane. Another petition was delivered to 10 Downing Street. Sadly, after 30 years of campaigning, the planning inspectorate has allowed this development to go ahead.

The Association has had success in supporting and driving forward several village improvements - making all of Catherine de Barnes a part of Hampton Parish, protecting the Hall from development and keeping it as a village asset, the introduction of the bus shelter and the pedestrian crossing, keeping Catney Common in good order, supporting a new children's playground and even looking out for the Victorian post box on Lugtrout Lane.

Thank you to Lesley Cuthbert for much of this history. I apologise for any errors or omissions and please let me know if you have memories to add to the story. Frances Cook

Dates for the Diary

Hampton Festival and evening musical event Saturday 4th July

Residents Association Committee Meeting Tuesday 7th July

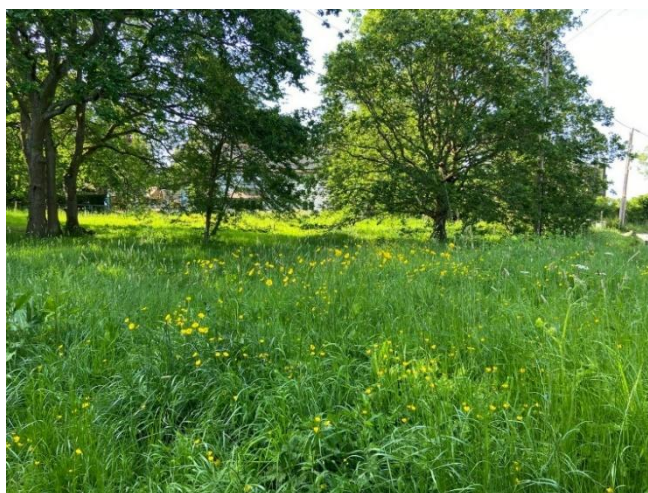
Next Parish Council meeting Wednesday 8th July commencing 7.30pm in the Meeting Room adjacent to Soho Tavern off Marsh Lane, Hampton in Arden .

C de B RA village BBQ Saturday 11th July commencing 1:30 pm Village Hall in CdeB

Bluebells in Catney -
Bunts Wood April 2026
Thanks to Liz Boxall for
the photos



The Canal in Catney and Catney
Common. May 2026. Thanks to Kate
Hillman for the photos



We would love to receive more photos or your memories for the Catney News.

Have you signed up for garden waste collection?

Solihull Council is reminding residents that renewals and new subscriptions are open for the 2026-27 garden waste collection year. Subscriptions for the current collection year expire on 30 June 2026 and the new collection year runs from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027. Households who wish to receive garden waste collections during this period need to renew or subscribe.

The annual cost for the service has been frozen at £49 and the easiest way to sign up is online at www.solihull.gov.uk/garden-waste. If you are unable to pay online you can contact Solihull Connect on 0121 704 8000 or visit one of our walk-in centres.



CATNEY NEWS July & August 2026

www.catney.co.uk

Membership Report

Thank you to the 184 households have joined for 2026 and a special thank you for all the generous donations. Graham and Carole Roderick are the lucky winners of this year's prize draw, an Afternoon Tea for Two Voucher at The Sky Restaurant at Resorts World.

If you haven't joined yet for this year, you can still do so. If you haven't renewed, I will take your name off the Catney News distribution list. All members should have received a membership card for 2026.

Please get in touch if you have any queries.

Frances Cook (secretary@catney.co.uk)

Residents Association Committee Meetings

Generally, Committee meetings are now held on the first Tuesday in the month, the next one is July 7th. Any resident wishing to raise any issue with the Committee, can do so, by contacting us at secretary@catney.co.uk.

Any items of importance discussed at the meetings or decisions made, are communicated to members via the Catney News and email. The Catney News is distributed to members only but non-members are able to view it on our website the following month.

Pot holes /Drainage issues/ Faulty Street Lighting/ Fly tipping

If you see issues with any of these - please send details to the Parish Clerk:

clerk@hamptoninardenparish.gov.uk -or you can contact them direct. The council need details of the location of the particular issue and a picture is really helpful. The road surface along Hampton Lane needs particular attention and some of the pot holes have been filled following a request from the Parish Council.

WELCOME PACK FOR NEW RESIDENTS

If anyone has a new neighbour, knows of a new resident to the village or is in the process of moving, I would very much appreciate it if you could let me know the address of the new resident so that I can deliver a Welcome Pack to them. The Welcome Pack contains information of the village amenities, useful telephone numbers and of course information about the Residents' Association and the many things we do. Please email me at cuthbertlm@me.com or text/telephone me on 07776 480813 with the address of the new resident. Thank you. Lesley Cuthbert

Contact us: secretary@catney.co.uk or 0776 850 2039

Website: www.catney.co.uk

Catney News Articles: For the next edition, please send to secretary@catney.co.uk
by the 22nd of August

Village Hall bookings: Steve Dodsworth on 0744 350 5388 or bookings@catneyvillagehall.co.uk